

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 SCEM-02

CIEP-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /152 W
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R 180855Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8817

INFO AMEMBASSYLONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, JA, LY

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PLANS TO BID FOR LIBYAN OIL

REF: A) TOKYO 16247 B) STATE 246095 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO ACTING HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL DIV. OF MITI'S RESOURCES AND ENERGY AGENCY (HAYASHI), DECISION ON WHETHER TO ALLOW JAPANESE OIL COMPANIES TO BID ON LIBYAN OIL WAS MADE AT CABINET MEETING ON DEC. 18. HAYASHI DECLINED TO SAY WHAT DECISION HAD BEEN. HE WOULD ONLY SAY THAT GOJ HAD NOT DECIDED TO ENCOURAGE JAPANESE FIRMS TO TAKE PART IN BIDDING, BUT ON OTHER HAND HAD NOT DECIDED TO PROHIBIT JAPANESE PARTICIPATION. HAYASHI ADDED THAT AS FAR AS MITI COULD DETERMINE, ONLY ONE JAPANESE FIRM HAD ENTERED BID FOR LIBYAN OIL.

2. HEAD OF SECOND NORTH AMERICA DIV. OF FONOFF (SAITO) HAD SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VERSION. HE SAID FONOFF AND MITI HAD NOT YET WORKED OUT ALL THEIR DIFFERENCES ON LIBYAN OIL ISSUE.
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FONOFF FAVORED TAKING NO POSITION, WHILE MITI PREFERRED TO

ENCOURAGE JAPANESE FIRMS TO BID. THUS, ACCORDING TO FONOFF,
AT BEST GOJ DECISION WILL BE TO LEAVE IT UP TO PRIVATE FIRMS.

3. ALONG LINES OF MITSUBISHI'S COMMENTS IN REFTTEL (A),
MANAGER OF KYODO OIL CO. CRUDE OIL SUPPLY DEPT. TOLD EMBOFF
DEC. 18 THAT MAJOR JAPANESE REFINERS AND TRADERS WERE
RELUCTANT TO TAKE PART IN LIBYAN BIDDING NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF
EXPECTED HIGH PRICES, BUT ALSO FROM DESIRE TO AVOID
DISPUTES WITH MAJORS OVER HOT OIL.

4. EMBASSY HAS AGAIN TOLD BOTH FONOFF AND MITI
THAT WE REGARD LIBYAN NATIONALIZATION ACTIONS AS
VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND URGE OTHER GOVERNMENTS
NOT TO SUPPORT PURCHASE OF OIL, TITLE TO WHICH IS UNCLEAR.
SHOESMITH

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